

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated August 22, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of February 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds which comprises an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, said pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and connection means for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure, ~~wherein said envelope is a glove, sock or sleeve.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 ~~which is intended for treating wounds to the hand and comprises a glove~~ further configured to receive a hand and formed from a flexible plastics or rubber foam and an external cover of air-impermeable sheet material.

Claim 4 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the connection means comprises a tube which communicates with the foam within the cover.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cover has a re-sealable opening which permits the wound to be inspected at intervals.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the source of negative pressure is a suction pump.

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated August 22, 2006
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Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, which includes a canister for collecting wound exudate.

Claim 8 (New): Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the source of negative pressure is positioned outside the envelope and fluidly connected to the connection means.

Claim 9 (New): Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the substantially air-tight cover is air impermeable.

Claim 10 (New): A method for stimulating new tissue growth, comprising:
introducing a limb of a patient into an interior portion of an
outer cover via an opening of the outer cover;
applying a porous component to at least a portion of the limb
within the outer cover;
sealing the opening; and
stimulating new tissue growth by applying a negative pressure
to the interior portion of the outer cover.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the negative pressure further comprises applying an intermittent negative pressure to the limb sealed in the outer cover.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the negative pressure further comprises applying a continuous negative pressure to the limb sealed in the outer cover.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 10, further comprising automatically controlling the application of negative pressure using a control device operably associated with a pump.

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated August 22, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of February 22, 2006

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
unsealing a second opening;
exposing the limb through the unsealed second opening to
apply the porous component to the limb; and
resealing the second opening.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 14, wherein unsealing
further comprises unsealing a zip-type seal.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein applying a
porous component further comprises applying a glove-shaped porous
component.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein:
the limb includes a hand and wrist of the patient; and
sealing the open end includes sealing the open end to the
wrist of the patient.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein introducing the
limb of the patient to the outer cover further comprises introducing the limb
to a substantially air-tight outer cover.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein applying the
porous component to the limb includes applying the porous component to a
hand of the limb while the hand is in at least a partially-closed position.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein applying a
porous component includes applying a porous component formed of a
reticulated foam.

Application No. 10/009,294
Amendment dated August 22, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of February 22, 2006

Claim 21 (New): The method according to claim 10, further comprising collecting wound exudates within a canister located between the porous component and a pump used to apply the negative pressure.

Claim 22 (New): An apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds, comprising: an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, the pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and a connector fluidly connected to the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure, wherein the cover has a re-sealable opening which permits the wound to be inspected at intervals.

Claim 23 (New): An apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds, comprising:
an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and porous pad within the cover, the pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and a connector fluidly connected to the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure; and
a canister for collecting wound exudate.

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